Participating interests in African oil gas blocks

†611. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has tweaked the oil diplomacy agenda and plans to offer African nations a development package to help their economies and in return, India wants participating interests in the continent's proven oil and gas blocks, besides a commitment for long term oil and gas supplies;

(b) if so, whether Government will offer the package which includes setting up infrastructure projects in power, refining, steel and railways network; and

(c) if so, whether these issues would be discussed in the forthcoming Indo-African conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the desire of both India and the African nations to intensify and widen cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector, First-ever India Africa Hydrocarbon Conference and Exhibition was held in New Delhi on 6-7th November, 2007. A road map of cooperation was drawn out, the contours of which envisage (i) Hydrocarbon Co-operation Agreements at the macro level to identify the broad areas of Co-operation in the field of Exploration and Production and Refining; (ii) stepping up crude oil imports, and exports of petro-products by India; (iii) technology transfer and cooperation in R&D; (iv) retail marketing of Fuels and Lubricants by Indian Companies in Africa; and (v) training of technical and managerial personnel of African nations in hydrocarbon industry management.

Assistance for construction of dams in Rajasthan

†612. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided assistance to the Rajasthan Government for construction of dams for the purpose of irrigation;

(b if so, the details thereof, projects-wise; and

(c) the estimated acreages of agricultural area likely to be benefited after completion of these dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has provided assistance to the Government of Rajasthan for the purpose of irrigation (through major & medium irrigation projects and minor irrigation schemes) which also includes construction of dams. Total loan assistance sanctioned to Rajasthan by NABARD under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) since 1995-96 till January 31, 2008 and likely benefits to be accrued on completion of these projects are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Activity	No. of Project	RIDF Loan Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	Irrigation Potential (Ha.)
Major Irrigation	14	464.40	212278
Medium Irrigation	11	441.71	70144
Minor Irrigation	286	536.71	123286
Total:	311	1442.82	405708

Project-wise details for 1995-96 to 2007-08 as provided by NABARD is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 213 Annexure No. 1]

Level of ground water

†613. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water crisis is increasing day by day and the level of availability of ground water is going down by one metre every year in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the views of Government alongwith the details thereof for the last ten years;

(c) whether it is a fact that a scheme meant for resolving this very serious problem affecting the lives of the people of whole nation is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) According to observations by Central Ground Water Board, the level of ground water is falling in certain parts of country. The main reasons for this fall are withdrawal of ground water in excess of annual recharge, increase in the demand for various types of uses, reduced recharge to aquifers due to urbanization and free electricity for extraction of ground water in some States.

State Government and Central Government have taken action for water harvesting and ground water recharge to arrest decline in the levels of ground water. The Ministry of Water Resources have a scheme on "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through dugewells" in seven States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

Water management programme in Goa

614. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Command Area Development and Water Management Programme are being implemented in Goa;

(b) the details of the activities undertaken under the scheme by agencies implementing the scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.